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Docket No.: 9988.083.00
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
KIM, Jong Seok

Customer No.: 30827

Application No.: 10/720,543

Confirmation No.: 9113

Filed: November 25, 2003

Art Unit: 1746

For: WASHING MACHINE

Examiner: PERRIN, Joseph L.

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed January 16, 2007, Applicants' Representative contacted the Examiner on January 30, 2007 to discuss the species restriction. The Applicants thank the Examiner for taking the time to speak with Applicants' Representative. The substance of the interview is set forth below and constitutes a record of the interview.

During the interview, the Examiner explained that upon initial review it appeared that Figure 3 and Figure 7 were drawn to mutually exclusive structures. Applicants' Representative pointed out that the figures were not mutually exclusive, but rather two different views showing the same structure. More specifically, Figure 3 shows a side view of the entire washing machine, including a magnified portion showing how the upper reinforcing plate 150, the base plate 110, the catching device 160 and the support 170 couple with each other. Figure 7 illustrates the side panel 120 including a groove 121. Applicants' Representative pointed out that these two structures could co-exist within the same washing machine. The Examiner agreed and directed Applicants' Representative to file a response noting the reasons why the restriction requirement was unnecessary. The Examiner stated that upon receipt of such response, the restriction requirement would be withdrawn and the prosecution of the application would advance.

Accordingly, the Applicants hereby provisionally elect claims 1-41 for continued examination without prejudice or disclaimer.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: February 16, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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